(b) whether it is also a fact that works relating to construction of dams, roads and laying of electric lines in States have been hampered due to complexity of Provisions of Forests (Conservations) Act, 1980 and the compulsion of permission from Government; and

(c) the number of people who have got temporary lease of agriculture land and by when they would be provided the lease of land-owner?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Villages adjoining forest areas are substantially dependent upon the forests for meeting their needs for fodder, fuelwood and small timber.

(b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only regulates indiscriminate and unnecessary diversion of forest land. The Act also aims at sustained supply of forest usufructs to local communities and safeguarding reduction in the extent of natural forests. Every proposal requiring forest land for non-forestry purposes is considered on merit and in case the diversion is necessary and unavoidable, permission is accorded with suitable conditions keeping due regard to environmental security of the area. Since 1980, under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, more than 7600 proposals for development and other facilities related works involving about 5.30 lakh hectare forest land has been approved by the Ministry.

(c) Guidelines issued under the Act stipulate that forest land should not be diverted for non-site specific activities like agriculture. However, where the temporary leases of forest land for agriculture purpose have been given prior to coming in force of the Act, proposals of the State Governments are considered by the Government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Financial assistance for Ranthambhor Tiger Project

† 1820. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Ranthambhor Tiger

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Project by the Central Government, Indian or foreign financial institutions or banks for how many schemes the same was provided and how much amount has been spent out of the said assistance and on which items;

(b) whether any statistical report has been received in this regard; and

(c) whether the tiger 'Bhambhu Ram" seen by the form U.S. President Shri Bill Clinton, has been killed and its skin is also included among the skins of wild animals seized by Delhi Police recently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) the details of Central assistance provided to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve during the last three year by the various agencies and the expenditure are as below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

		1999-2000		2000-01		2001 -02	
SI. N		Allocation	Expen-diture	Allocation	Expen-diture	Allocation	Expen-diture
1.	Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger	110.655	73.535	122.325	107.90	103.608	116.076
2.	India Eco-development (Externally Aided	150.00	255.82	531.28	437.773	227.50	329.29

In addition, the State Government has received an amount, of Rs. 4.00 lakhs during 2000-01 under the Forestry Project funded by Japan, out of which Rs. 2.24 lakhs was utilised.

(c) Government of Rajasthan has reported that in all probabilities the tiger "Bhambhu Ram" is still there in Ranthambhore National Park.

Protection of forests in Gujarat

1821. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to protect the forest land in Gujarat, specially Gir forest;

(b) whether the loss reduction in wildlife has been reported due to diversion of forest land; and